Global arms deal signed by India

1705. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India signed a $ 4.8 billion global arms deal last year;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that it was second only to United Arab Emirates;

(c) how much more arms India has purchased in comparison to other countries;

(d) whether India has become self-sufficient in defence armaments; and

(e) if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (e) India has been signing contracts with various countries for defence equipments. The records of official data about defence procurement done by other countries are not maintained by Government. In the absence of availability of complete data, it is not possible to compare data on arms purchase by India *vis a vis* other countries.

2. Self-sufficiency in defence arms is a continuous and on-going process. In view of the sensitive nature of the information, it may not be in public interest to disclose further details.

Getting AJTs for IAF from Britain

1706. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) when Government are going to get AJTs for the Indian Air Force from the British; and

(b) whether the talks between the Government of India and the British Government are over?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The matter of acquisition of the AJTs is still under consideration of the Government.